



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Accountability Minutes 09/08/2008**

**Approved Minutes 10/2/2008**

Minutes for Monday, September 8, 2008 Meeting  
of the  
District Accountability Subcommittee  
of the  
Arlington School Committee

School Committee Room, Arlington, Massachusetts

Present: Subcommittee Members -- Joseph A. Curro, Jr. (Chair)  
Joseph E. Curran  
Leba Heigham

Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent of Schools

The Subcommittee Chair called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Curran moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2008. Mr. Curro seconded the motion, which passed 2-0-1 with Ms. Heigham abstaining.

Ms. Heigham moved to approve the minutes of July 22, 2008. Mr. Curro seconded the motion, which passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Curran abstaining.

### **Review of Current Year Goals**

Goals discussed included:

**1. b) (Standardized Procedures to Determine Service Needs – 4 potential points):** The subcommittee discussed the dilemma that this is not a goal that is ever complete. Ms. Bodie reported that the APS have made progress on this and discussed how determinations of counseling needs are made. The interim superintendent spoke about the implementation of Teacher Assistance Teams (TATs) and indicated that it is a judgment call as to whether or not a child needs counseling. She further discussed the protocols that have been put in place relating to teacher assistants and their deployment. Ms. Bodie stressed the need to help kids to be *empowered* to learn, as opposed to being *enabled*. She also reported that most referrals do not currently come out of TATs.

Ms. Heigham stated that the measure as currently formulated is not realistic. She moved that the subcommittee recommend the awarding of 2 points, recognizing that there has been significant progress implementing standardized procedures in the Arlington Public Schools, and that the subcommittee was unable to use the approved scoring metric to assess that implementation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curran and passed unanimously.

**1. d) (AYP in Math for Middle School Students with IEPs – 3 potential points):** Ms. Bodie reported that information was pending from the state for this before a recommendation could be made. Further action was deferred until this information becomes available.

**1. e) (Communication Plan for Special Education Changes – 3 potential points):** Ms. Bodie reported on a survey that was performed and that SEPAC feels there has been improvement. Further action was deferred until survey results can be provided to the subcommittee.

**1. f) (Best Practices for Incorporating Executive Functioning in Curriculum – 2 potential points):** There was discussion about the lack of concentration on executive functioning. Ms. Bodie stressed her interest in what can be done in the classroom, as opposed to producing a report on our own, which might not make sense. Ms. Heigham recommended that this goal be reformulated for next year and moved that the subcommittee recommend the award of 0 points. Mr. Curran seconded this motion, which was passed unanimously.

**1. h) (In-house Special Education Program Definition – 2 potential points):** Ms. Bodie reported that this is in good shape, but still in need of more work to define what the curriculum is going to be. Ms. Heigham moved to recommend the award 1 point and to refer curriculum development to next year's goals. Mr. Curran seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**2. g) (Grades 6-8 Reading Instruction and Support – 1 potential point):** Based on a previous presentation to the School Committee, Ms. Heigham moved to recommend the award of 1 point. Mr. Curran seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**2. l) (Grades K-2 Reading Process – 2 potential points):** The subcommittee determined to defer consideration of this, pending actual numbers.

**3. a) ("Pre-AP" Skills – 2 potential points),**

**3. b) (Interdisciplinary Course Study Group – 3 potential points),**

**3. c) (Source Material Evaluation in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – 2 potential points),**

**3. d) (Grade 9 English and Social Studies Research Paper Guidelines – 3 potential points),**

**3. e) (Academic Honesty Policy – 2 potential points),**

**3. f) (Train Teachers in Teamwork Rubrics – 2 potential points),**

**3. g) (World Languages Study Group – 2 potential points),**

**3. h) (Coordinate Homework Loads – 2 potential points),**

**3. i) (Increase Mental Health Services through Partnerships – 2 potential points):** Ms. Bodie suggested that "Pre-AP" skills could be a good subject for teachers' professional development day. After lengthy discussion of 21<sup>st</sup> century goals, Ms. Heigham moved to recommend awarding all potential points for objectives 3. a) through 3. i). Mr. Curran seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**3. j) (Software Presentation Common Assessment in Social Studies – 2 potential points),**

**3. k) (Grade 12 Capstone Project Study Group – 2 potential points):** Ms. Heigham moved to recommend awarding all potential points for objectives 3. j) through 3. k). Mr. Curran seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**3. m) (Year 2 Implementation Steps of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Plan – 3 potential points):** Ms. Heigham moved to recommend the awarding of 0 points and to refer this objective to next year's goals. Mr. Curran seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**4. a) (Health, Safety and Workplace Needs – 4 potential points):** Mr. Curran moved to recommend the awarding of 4 points. Ms. Heigham seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

## **2008 – 2008 Goals**

Ms. Bodie advised the subcommittee that the administrative team intended to meet two Fridays in a row in order to more fully finalize goals. She indicated that most top-level goals would remain the same as in the current year.

## **Next Meeting**

After some discussion, the subcommittee chair determined to set the next meeting of the District Accountability Subcommittee for Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

On motion of Ms. Heigham, seconded by Mr. Curran, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Curro, Jr., Chair  
District Accountability Subcommittee